

Virginia Comprehensive Assistance Network [VA CAN] Meeting
June 21, 2005
Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Jim McKean ,Chairman- DBA, Richard Rasmussen, Keith Boisvert - DEQ, Andy Feagins – DMAS, Stu Neal – CCWA, Jennifer Wester – DOLI, Brenda Eggleston – DEQ, **Eberhard Koska – SCORE**, **Tinh Duc Phan – Asian American Business Assistance Center (AABAC)**, and **My Lan Tran – City of Richmond**.

Note: **Bold** indicates first time attendee.

Meeting Speaker:

Andy Feagins , FAMIS Program Director, Dept. Medical Assistance Services - “FAMIS and FAMIS Select – Hidden Resources for Businesses”

1. Opening/Introductions – Jim McKean & Richard Rasmussen

Round-the-table introductions.

2. Presentation by Andy Feagins – FAMIS Program Director



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Andy provided a wonderful presentation and overview of the FAMIS program and the potential benefits of health coverage for the children of workers who do not have benefits coverage through their employment.

3. Old Business

- Brenda Eggleston reviewed VA CAN’s website with its new links and posted calendar events.
- **It’s time to select a new Chairperson of VA CAN. So a volunteer is needed.**
- There was discussion of the continuing efforts to share information, events and outreach opportunities.

4. Roundtable

Keith Boisvert - Provided update on P2 Program Activities.

Jennifer Wester -

- DOLI had just held their 10th Annual Safety and Occupational Health Conference in Portsmouth, VA. The conference was tremendously successful with over 430 participants.
- The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) has recently hired Milford Stearn to manage the VPP program from the Roanoke office. The VPP program works with businesses larger than 250 employees to help them voluntarily comply and certify that they are in compliance with OSHA regulations... The program has recognized 35 facilities.

Tinh Duc Phan - Indicated that the Asia American Business Assistance Center was created 1 year ago as a business education tool for the Asian and other minority communities in the Greater Richmond Area. They have recently hosted a Procurement Forum with over 80 participants from both the government and private sectors. Tin also is the founder of the Minority Business Consortium with offices in Northern Virginia, Hampton, and Charlottesville. One of the high topic areas for AABAC is English as Second Language.

My Lan Tran – is the Program Manager for the City of Richmond’s Minority Business Enterprise Program and has been conducting many different seminars and workshops for the minority businesses in

the Greater Richmond Area. She invited Andy Feagins to participate with her on her monthly Radio Show to talk about FAMIS (this took place last week and from what I hear was very successful). My LAN is invested in “hand holding” and getting businesses into the City of Richmond.

Eberhard Koska “Hardy” is the vice chair of the Richmond Chapter of SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives) Counselors to America’s Small Businesses. Score is sponsored by the federal Small Business Administration and can provide all different types of business counseling resources to business or entrepreneurs. SCORE began about 30 years ago. There are 11 chapters in Virginia and a wealth of talent from which to draw to get advice and counsel on most any business question. The Richmond Chapter has 34 counselors available. See <http://www.richmondscore.org> . The local chapter holds monthly workshops open to anyone at the MCV Hospitality House 8:30 to 4:30 and at various libraries around the area.

Jim McKean – DBA was an exhibitor at the DOLI Conference in Portsmouth. Thought it very successful.

Stu Neal – Small Business Resource Day was very successful

Richard Rasmussen – The Small Business Assistance Program National Conference was very successful. If particular interest is the upcoming regulation of 55 “area” source categories, primarily small businesses. The purpose to reduce emissions of a list of 30 toxic chemicals and metals. The businesses can range from auto body shops to small chemical manufacturers to users of small boilers that area. The loan fund has some money remaining and has lent over \$1.4 million to various small businesses. Northern Virginia also will soon have a new regulation that covers consumer products (i.e. air fresheners, deodorants, bathroom and glass cleaners, etc.). The Program is still working on the Northern Virginia Auto Body Environmental Results Program.

5. Chairman: We need a volunteer to step up and offer to chair the group for the next year. Volunteers call Jim McKean or Richard Rasmussen.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2005 at DEQ’s Piedmont Regional Office at 10:00 AM.

7. Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.